

REMARKS

The Applicant has carefully reviewed the Office Action dated June 29, 2006 and has amended the application to set the claims in condition for allowance. By the virtue of this amendment, claims 1, 4, 8, 10, 18, 23 and 24 are amended. Claims 2, 3, 9 and 21 are canceled. No new matter is added. Support for the amended language is found within the specification and the drawings.

It is not the Applicant's intent to surrender any equivalents because of the amendments or arguments made herein. Reexamination and reconsideration of the application, as amended, are respectfully requested.

§103 Rejections

Claims 1-24 are rejected under section 103 as obvious over a combination of the following references: US-2001/0053674 (Katoh); US-5,697,124 (Jung); US-6,148,480 (Cooke); and US-5,467,477 (Furuta). It is respectfully noted that rejection of claims using a drawing requires that "the picture must show all the claimed structural features and how they are put together" and "[t]he drawings must be evaluated for what they reasonably disclose and suggest to one of ordinary skill in the art." M.P.E.P. §2125.

In order to expedite prosecution, however, the Applicant has amended the claims to put the application in condition for allowance base on Examiner's finding that claims 9-15 and 21-24 would be allowable if rewritten to include the limitations of the base claims and any intervening claims.

Claims 9 depends on claim 3. Claim 3 depends on claim 2. Claim 2 depends on claim 1. Claims 2, 3 and 9 are canceled and claim 1 is now amended to include the elements of dependent claims 2, 3 and 9. Claim 1 is therefore in condition for allowance. Claims 4-8, and 10-17 depend on claim 1 and should be also in condition for allowance by the virtue of their dependence on an allowable base claim.

Claim 21 depends on claim 18. Claim 18 is now amended to include the elements of claim 21. Therefore, claim 18 and claims 19-20 and 22 depending on claim 18 are now allowable. Claims 23 and 24 are independent claims that have been amended to correct typographical errors and according to page 8 of the Office Action are in condition for allowance. The Applicant wishes to thank the Examiner for finding claims 9-15 and 21-24 allowable, particularly independent claims 23 and 24, despite the Furuta reference.


No amendment made was related to the statutory requirements of patentability unless expressly stated herein; and no amendment made was for the purpose of narrowing the scope of any claim, unless Applicants have expressly argued herein that such amendment was made to distinguish over a particular reference or combination of references.

If for any reason the Examiner finds the application other than in condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to call the undersigned attorney at the Los Angeles, California, telephone number (213) 623-2221 to discuss the steps necessary for placing the application in condition for allowance.

Respectfully submitted,
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